

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A tire monitoring apparatus for mounting on a vehicle wheel that is configured to have a tire mounted thereon, the wheel having ~~a first~~ an opening, the apparatus comprising:

a tire monitor for monitoring a tire parameter, the tire monitor having a housing with a spherical surface, the housing further having ~~a second~~ an opening that extends through the spherical surface;

a tire valve stem that is configured to extend through the ~~first and second openings~~ opening in the wheel and the opening in the housing, the valve stem having a threaded portion; and

a threaded fastener that is engageable with the threaded portion of the valve stem for attaching together the tire monitor and the valve stem, the fastener having a spherical surface that engages the spherical surface of the housing when the fastener is engaged with the threaded portion of the valve stem.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the fastener has a base portion and multiple spaced apart projections extending from the base portion, each projection having a spherical surface that is engageable with the spherical surface of the housing when the fastener is engaged with the threaded portion of the valve stem.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the multiple spaced apart projections include three projections.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the multiple spaced apart projections include four projections.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the projections cooperate to provide at least three points of contact with the spherical surface of the housing when the fastener is engaged with the threaded portion of the valve stem.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the points of contact lie generally in a plane that is generally perpendicular to an axis extending through the fastener and the valve stem when the fastener is engaged with the threaded portion of the valve stem.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the fastener includes a base portion having first and second ends, multiple spaced apart first projections extending from the first end of the base portion, and multiple spaced apart second projections extending from the second end of the base portion, each projection having a spherical surface, the spherical surfaces of the first projections being engageable with the spherical surface of the housing when the first end of the base portion of the fastener is facing toward the spherical surface of the housing and the fastener is engaged with the threaded portion of the valve stem, the spherical surfaces of the second projections being engageable with the spherical surface of the housing when the second end of the base portion of the fastener is facing toward the spherical surface of the housing and the fastener is engaged with the threaded portion of the valve stem.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the fastener includes three first projections and three second projections.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the fastener includes four first projections and four second projections.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the first projections cooperate to provide at least three points of contact with the spherical surface of the housing when the first end of the base portion of the fastener is facing toward the spherical surface of the housing and the fastener is engaged with the threaded portion of the valve stem.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the points of contact lie generally in a plane that is generally perpendicular to an axis extending through the fastener and the valve stem when the fastener is engaged with the threaded portion of the valve stem.

12. (Currently Amended) A tire monitoring apparatus for mounting on a vehicle wheel that is configured to have a tire mounted thereon, the wheel having ~~a first~~ an opening, the apparatus comprising:

a tire monitor for sensing pressure in the tire, the tire monitor having a housing with a spherical surface, the housing further having ~~a second~~ an opening that extends through the spherical surface;

a tire inflator valve assembly that is configured to extend through the ~~first and second openings~~ opening in the wheel and the opening in the housing, the valve assembly having a longitudinal axis and a threaded portion; and

a threaded fastener that is engageable with the threaded portion of the valve assembly for attaching together the tire monitor and the valve assembly, the fastener including a base portion having first and second ends, the fastener further including multiple spaced apart first projections extending from the first end of the base portion, and multiple spaced apart second projections extending from the second end of the base portion, each projection having a spherical surface, wherein the spherical surfaces of the first projections are configured to provide at least three first points of contact with the spherical surface of the housing when the first end of the base portion of the fastener is facing toward the spherical surface of the housing and the fastener is engaged with the threaded portion of the valve assembly, such that the first points of contact lie generally in a plane that is generally perpendicular to the axis of the valve assembly, and wherein the spherical surfaces of the second projections are configured to provide at least three second points of contact with the spherical surface of the housing when the second end of the base portion of the fastener is facing toward the spherical surface of the housing and the fastener is engaged with the threaded portion of the valve assembly, such that the second points of contact lie generally in a plane that is generally perpendicular to the axis of the valve assembly.

13. (Currently Amended) A tire monitoring apparatus for mounting on a vehicle wheel that is configured to have a tire mounted thereon, the wheel having ~~a first~~ an opening, the apparatus comprising:

a tire monitor for monitoring a tire parameter, the tire monitor having a housing with a spherical surface, the housing further having ~~a second~~ an opening that extends through the spherical surface;

a tire valve stem that is configured to extend through the ~~first and second openings~~ opening in the wheel and the opening in the housing, the valve stem having a threaded portion; and

a threaded fastener that is engageable with the threaded portion of the valve stem and the spherical surface of the housing for attaching together the tire monitor and the valve stem, the fastener having a configuration that provides at least three points of contact with the spherical surface of the housing when the fastener is engaged with the spherical surface of the housing.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the fastener has at least three engaging members that are engageable with the spherical surface of the housing to provide the at least three points of contact.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein each engaging member has a spherical surface that is engageable with the spherical surface of the housing.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein each engaging member has a conical surface that is engageable with the spherical surface of the housing.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein each engaging member has a substantially flat surface that is engageable with the spherical surface of the housing.

18. (New) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the fastener includes a base portion having first and second ends, multiple spaced apart first projections extending from the first end of the base portion, and multiple spaced apart second projections extending from the second end of the base portion, each projection having an engaging surface that is engageable with the spherical surface of the housing, the engaging surfaces of the first projections being configured to provide the at least three points of contact with the spherical surface of the housing when the first end of the base portion of the fastener is facing toward the spherical surface of the housing and the fastener is engaged with the threaded portion of the valve stem, the engaging surfaces of the second projections being configured to provide at least three additional points of contact with the spherical surface of the housing when the second end of the base portion of the fastener is facing toward the spherical surface of the housing and the fastener is engaged with the threaded portion of the valve stem.

19. (New) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein each engaging surface comprises a conical surface that is engageable with the spherical surface of the housing.

20. (New) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein each engaging surface comprises a substantially flat surface that is engageable with the spherical surface of the housing.